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Chapter Thirteen

"THUNDERING HOOFS"

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RIDERS OF THE PLAINS

Photoplay in two reels

#13 Thundering Hoofs

Story by Karl Coolidge and Jacques Jaccard

Directed by Jacques Jaccard

Author of the photoplay (under section 62)  
Arrow Pictures Corporation of U.S.

## Chapter Thirteen

## "THUNDERING HOOPS"

Johnnie, reaching his horse, Whiskey, rides desperately out in an effort to aid Star Light, but in trying to follow the chase stumbles onto the camp of Running Elk, Star Light's foster-father. Johnnie tells Running

The flaming wagon plunges down the steep hillside against the shack in which Johnnie, wounded, and Star Light have been heroically defending their lives and the treaty. Star Light is well on her way through the secret tunnel and escapes injury. But Johnnie is apparently trapped in the collapse of the structure. It is the opening of the secret tunnel that saves him. Leaping down into the aperture at the very instant of the impact of the flaming wagon against the shack, he is protected for the moment when the timbers fall across the opening.

Bleeding and exhausted, he is half buried under the debris that falls thru the aperture, but succeeds in extricating himself and darts off thru the tunnel, while Morgan and his men now rush upon the ruins confident the treaty is theirs.

Johnnie finds Star Light anxiously awaiting him at the mouth of the tunnel, on the further side of the hill, with their horses, Star, Beverly and Whiskey, a short distance away. He tells her to make a dash for her horse, Star, and escape with the treaty while he holds off their foes. Star Light succeeds in reaching her horse, leaps astride and is off like a flash.

But Morgan and his men, meantime, dashing into the ruins of the shack, discover the secret tunnel and sweep out around the hill in an effort to head off their quarry. Thus they come upon Johnnie and instant after Star Light's dash away. Demanding the treaty of Johnnie, Morgan searches him without avail and learns that Star Light has fled with it. Since it is the treaty Morgan wants, not Johnnie, Morgan and his men spur frantically off to run down the girl, leaving Johnnie to do as he will.

And witness of Morgan's dash after Star Light is Sitting Bull, who with his warriors, has just come upon the scene. Sitting Bull and his men ride after Morgan and his men. A spectacular chase ensues.

Johnnie, reaching his horse, Whiskey, rides desperately out in an effort to aid Star Light, but in trying to follow the chase stumbles onto the camp of Running Elk, Star Light's foster-father. Johnnie tells Running Elk what has happened and is surprised not to find Star Light already there.

Running Elk now learns from Johnnie that it is not Morgan, but Jacques Cartier, the fanatical trader in St. Joe, Mo. who is back of all their grief and conflict - that one word from Cartier would call off Morgan and his men and permit the safe delivery of the treaty, which would stop the Indian uprising and bring peace to the Frontier. Running Elk and his medicine man decide to ride with all speed to Cartier with a final appeal, while Johnnie, weak from his wounds, staggers into a tent to attend to his injuries.

Meantime the spectacular chase goes on - Morgan after Star Light - Sitting Bull and his warriors after both factions, Morgan and one of his raiders finally overhaul the girl and demand the treaty. Star Light refuses to say whether she has it. Morgan's man urges a search of her, but Morgan hesitates to do this. It is at this moment that Sitting Bull and his warriors, sweeping up, open their fierce attack upon the group.

At a moment when the three seem doomed, Morgan, his one thought now of saving the girl and thus saving the treaty if she has it, makes a desperate dash, flashing past Star Light and picking her up in a spectacular flying grab. The episode ends with their fate in doubt.

(End Chapter Thirteen)

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